AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method of recording digital data onto a medium, comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting from said digital data any digital watermark that is electronically embedded in said digital data, wherein said digital watermark is electronically embedded in said digital data through a transformation of said digital data;

(b) if said digital watermark is detected, thereafter performing access control for said digital data using said digital watermark;

(c) thereafter scrambling/encoding said digital data and said digital watermark using an encryption key; and

(d) thereafter recording said scrambled/encoded digital data and said digital watermark onto a medium so as to inhibit the subsequent copy or playback of said scrambled/encoded digital data in the absence of knowledge of said encryption key.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein said performing access control step (b) includes a step of determining whether copying/recording of said digital data is to be stopped or continued.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein said performing access control step (b) includes a step of embedding a copy mark into said digital data in accordance with a content of said digital watermark.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method of performing playback control of <u>digital data</u> <u>that is</u> scrambled/<u>encoded using an encryption key, and then</u> ~~digital data that is~~ recorded onto a medium, comprising the steps of:

(a) reading said scrambled/<u>encoded</u> digital data from said medium;

(b) descrambling/<u>decoding</u> said ~~scrambled~~ <u>read</u> digital data ~~read from said medium~~ <u>using</u> <u>said encryption key;</u>

(c) detecting any digital watermark and copy mark that is electronically embedded in said <u>descrambled/decoded</u> digital data, said digital watermark being embedded through a transformation of said digital data; and

(d) ~~performing playback control~~ <u>controlling inhibition of playback</u> of said descrambled/<u>decoded</u> digital data using said digital watermark and said copy mark.

Claim 25-26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (currently amended): A video driver card for decoding scrambled digital data <u>wherein digital data is scrambled/encoded using an encryption key</u>, comprising:

(a) means for descrambling/<u>decoding</u> said scrambled/<u>encoded</u> digital data <u>using said</u> <u>encryption key, to thereby reproduce said digital data;</u>

(b) means for detecting from said <u>reproduced</u> digital data any digital watermark and copy mark electronically embedded in said <u>reproduced</u> digital data, wherein said electronically embedded digital watermark is embedded in said <u>scrambled/encoded</u> digital data through a transformation of said digital data; and

(c) means for ~~performing playback control~~ controlling inhibition of playback of said reproduced digital data using said digital watermark and said copy mark.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The video driver card of claim 27 wherein said ~~scrambled~~ reproduced digital data is an MPEG stream, and wherein said means for ~~performing playback control~~ controlling inhibition of playback (c) includes means for determining whether or not outputting said MPEG stream is to be performed and means for outputting said MPEG stream.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The video driver card of claim 28, wherein said means for ~~performing playback control~~ controlling inhibition of playback (c) includes means for adding a copy mark to said MPEG stream in accordance with said electronically embedded digital watermark and copy mark.

Claim 30-31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (currently amended): A player for playing-back scrambled/encoded digital data that is recorded onto a medium wherein scrambling/encoding is performed using an encryption key, comprising:

(a) means for reading said scrambled/encoded digital data from said medium;

(b) means for descrambling/decoding said ~~scrambled~~ read digital data ~~read from said medium~~ using said encryption key, to thereby recover said digital data;

(c) means for detecting from said ~~descrambled~~ recovered digital data any digital watermark and copy mark that is electronically embedded in said recovered digital data, wherein

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said digital watermark is electronically embedded through a transformation of said digital data; and

(d) means for ~~performing playback control~~ controlling inhibition of playback of said ~~descrambled~~ recovered digital data using said detected digital watermark and said detected copy mark.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The player of claim 32 wherein said ~~descrambled~~ recovered digital data is an MPEG stream, and wherein said means for ~~performing playback control~~ controlling inhibition of playback (d) includes means for determining whether or not outputting of said MPEG stream is to be performed and for outputting said MPEG stream.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The player of claim 33 wherein said means for ~~performing playback control~~ controlling inhibition of playback (d) includes means for adding a copy mark to said outputted MPEG stream in accordance with said digital watermark.